

## **CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER**

### **DEFINITION:**

Under general medical and nursing direction, to provide primary care service in a field of specialized competence, which includes health screening and complete physical examination, diagnosis, and treatment of well and sick children and/or adults; and to perform related work.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

This class is characterized by performing physical examinations, developing diagnostic impressions and case management plans in a field of specialized competence under direction of a physician. It includes counseling and instructing patients and/or family members. This class differs from other professional nursing classifications in that the emphasis is on developing diagnostic impressions and giving physical examination and other primary care services to augment the physician in defined limited areas.

### **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Performs screening and physical examinations to determine state of patient's health within the field of specialization; identifies impressions of abnormal conditions and develops case management plans; prepares a comprehensive health history of patients, records findings of assessments, plans for care, follow-up examinations and subsequent evaluations; initiates action within established protocols in ordering and interpreting laboratory tests; consults and collaborates with physicians, nurses and other health professionals in providing health services; counsels patients regarding treatment care in area of specialization; identifies problem areas for referral to other nursing staff; serves as consultant in program planning and development to other nursing and medical staff in area of specialization; and assists in the supervision of professional and non-professional staff.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

#### **Thorough Knowledge of:**

- Anatomy, physiology, microbiology, social science, psychology, nutrition and pharmacology.
- Normal growth and development.
- Norms in laboratory values to recognize conditions of clinical significance.
- Identification and management of health problems in a specialized field.
- Clinical practices of nursing by area of clinical specialty.
- Patient counseling and education.
- Community resources and their utilization.
- Knowledge of common illnesses and health problems.
- Nutrition.

#### **General Knowledge of:**

- Principles of epidemiology.
- Usage of basic medical, laboratory and nursing equipment.

- Historical, social, and legal aspects of nursing.
- Medical ethics.
- Nurse Practitioner role in relation to clinical setting.
- Principles and practices of teaching and learning as applied to patients and staff, individual groups.

**Skills and Abilities to:**

- Perform physical and psychosocial assessment.
- Prevent disease and provide health care.
- Develop individual clinical care management plans.
- Maintain effective, oral and written communication.
- Work in collaboration with physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.
- Prepare educational material and train professional and para-professional staff.
- Prepare protocols, guidelines and manuals.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is:

At least one (1) year of professional nursing experience; AND, successful completion of a Nurse Practitioner training program as approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

**SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**

**License:**

Valid Registered Nurse license and Nurse Practitioner certification in the State of California. A Public Health Nurse certificate is highly desirable.

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.